

# Credit and Time Requirements

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## OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

### DIVISION OF MUSIC

#### **Program Lengths**

Each of the OBU music degrees are between 127 and 132 credit hours—ranging from 107% to 112% of the standard 120 credit hour program length. This number is consistent with many other degrees on campus, which require approximately 128 credit hours.

#### **Awarding Credit**

Credits for applied music study are awarded most commonly as 1 or 2 credit hours—1 credit being a half hour lesson each week; 2 credits being an hour of lessons each week. For some degrees, notably the BM in Voice and the BM in Piano Performance, students take applied music study for 3 credit hours during some semesters, and in those semesters they are expected to complete more intensive practice goals and undertake extra listening and research projects. Each credit hour of applied study comes with the expectation of a minimum of 3 hours of student practice per week; each studio instructor is responsible for communicating this policy to the student.

Credits for academic studies in music generally are calculated according to clock hours. Each credit hour of academic study comes with the expectation of a minimum of 2-3 hours studying for the class. For example, courses in music history are 2, 3, and 3 credit hours for MUSC 3202, MUSC 3213, and MUSC 4233, respectively. The difference in 2 vs. 3 credit hour history classes is reflected in the meeting times for the courses: MUSC 3202 meets for 2 hours per week, while the other history courses meet for 3 hours per week. For a 3 credit hour music course, a student would be expected to study for that class 6-9 hours per week.

Credit hours for other academic courses such as music theory and aural skills are determined by a combination of clock hour meeting time and content. For example music theory courses meet 3 hours a week, for 2 credit hours; aural skills courses meet 2 hours a week, also for 2 credit hours. The discrepancy here is accounted for by considering that these classes essentially fit together in a five-day-a-week core musicianship curriculum. In total they equal 4 credits, and this reflects the weighting of class time in aural skills courses partly towards drill-based components such as dictation practice. Theory labs meet every other week and are a 0 credit hour course. These labs offer students time to engage with concepts from theory class through hands on music technology projects such as composing a musical piece and then notating the piece in a music engraving computer program. Theory labs are lecture based for approximately half the lab

period, followed by work time; and several labs at midterm and final time are purely work days for students to complete projects. Each level of theory lab involves 2-3 projects—not enough to justify 3 hours of work per week by students. Therefore, the course has traditionally been 0 credits.

Class piano courses meet twice a week, and are awarded 1 credit hour each because these courses are taught in a laboratory instructional setting where students spend time rehearsing skills demonstrated by the professor at the beginning of class.

### **Transfer of Credit**

OBU honors the transfer of up to 64 credits taken at junior colleges; and full credit for classes taken at accredited senior colleges. This is contingent on the content and organization of courses taken at other colleges.

Transfer credit in the Division of Music is also accepted pending successful achievement on the music theory transfer credit exam; piano transfer credit exam; and evaluation of performance achievement by an OBU applied instructor.

### **Procedures**

When new courses or changes to existing courses are being prepared, credit hours must be approved first by the music faculty. Then, proposed course changes are sent on to the OBU Curriculum Committee for approval. Finally, the OBU faculty votes on curriculum changes at University Forum meetings.

During scheduling of classes in preparation for upcoming semesters, the Division of Music Chair and College of Fine Arts Dean facilitate and oversee the process of scheduling classes to ensure that credit hours and clock hours match consistently.

Available online at  
<http://www.okbu.edu/academics/finearts/music/>

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